

CALL OF THE WATCHMEN

October 2020

Discernment from the tree of life

We have crossed the threshold into a new season and clearly feel the immense tension that foreshadows the beginning of a birth process. This is often painful and we struggle together to understand correctly what is happening at this time. In doing so, we often misunderstand and make judgements too hastily without sufficient thought. But what unites us is far more important than what divides us.

As intercessors, we must bring our society as a whole (without preconceived thoughts and accusations in our hearts) into the light of God's throne, before our Father who loves Germany. He knows us better than we do ourselves. And he understands that we are searching for truth: that we desire to know and to live faithfully for what is right. He knows our hearts are for law and order, but also our fear of going the wrong way once again and possibly losing our democratic freedom.

The wide range of information and interpretations of the current situation that we get from mainstream media or other sources can only help us to a limited extent in our intercession. First and foremost, we get discernment from the heart of God - from the tree of life, and not by seeking to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9). God's Word brings the life, correction, healing as well as the light and restoration, which we all now need (Revelation 22:2; Psalm 36:9).

Our priestly ministry

As priests, we have an important task at this time: (a) We remind our God (and thus ourselves) of the promises he has made to our country. Do you remember them? They are still valid. (b) We proclaim that we rely on God's faithfulness to see His purposes fulfilled. What better time is there to do this than in this month, as we remember what God has done for us in our history? (Lamentations 3:22-23). (c) Finally, in October we want to take **time to be still and to wait** on our God (Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 30:15). Will you join us? We want to free ourselves from all the commotion in and around us and surrender to God alone. **"Speak, for your servant is listening"** is the cry of our hearts (1 Samuel 3:10). We encourage you to set aside specific times this month to be still and wait on God. We believe that he will speak to us.

Dear Father, we give ourselves, our thoughts and our whole being to you, and want to hear your voice once again.

This is worship! And so we change the spiritual atmosphere over Germany and in the process "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Can you hear the Father's song for this land? A song that expresses his pain, but also his thoughts for the future, hope and joy for our people.

We want to sing along with our God! -AS-

Thanks for 30 years of a united Germany

Our national holiday is a time to celebrate and to thank God. After the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989, and the rapid political changes within one year, the accession of

former East Germany (GDR) to be within the scope of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany was sealed on October 3rd, 1990. Since then, as a reunited German nation, we have trodden a historic path, from two very different political entities and a divided nation after the Second World War into a common identity as one nation. This path has not been without pain and has required sacrifice and grace on both sides - so that it can best serve all our people and indeed other nations. On this anniversary we want to celebrate and be thankful for our united Germany, and above all for reunited families, for the new marriages, families, friendships and relationships that have occurred since the fall of the Berlin Wall, for the new generation of children born, and for the freedom and prosperity throughout Germany. As we thanked God for our Basic Law at the prayer conference in Bonn last year, let us now thank God for the abundant blessing that we have received. At this time, when much is being put to the test and shaken, God again wants to show us as a nation his ways of salvation that go beyond our prayers and understanding (Psalm 50:23).

Prayer:

- **Praise and thanks for 30 years of unity. (Psalm 98)**
- **We lay down before the Lord everything that we have achieved. Our land belongs to Him. (Psalm 24)**
- **After the political turn-around 30 years ago, we ask the Father now for Germany to turn around to Him, so that He can set us free to fulfil our calling as a nation. (John 8:36)** -KH-

Intercession during the corona-virus crisis

We all are aware of the tension which has been created in our society by different assessments and evaluations of the corona measures enacted by the government. Let us first pray for our inner eyes and ears to be open and for purity of heart (free from judgment). Then, guided by our heavenly Father and with appreciation for one another, let us bring this land before God's throne. At a time when divisions threaten to tear our society apart, such an attitude gives our prayer special authority.

Let us pray into three areas:

1. We pray for God's blessings on all rulers and those in authority (1 Timothy 2: 1-2) - that they make wise decisions. Together we place our country - our society and our democracy - under God's protection through all the shakings and the upheavals (Psalm 91).
2. We pray for the kingdom of God to be revealed at this time (Matthew 6:10) and invite the Holy Spirit to guide our country "into all truth" (John 16:13), to enable wise discernment and to uncover and bring to light all that is hidden (Luke 12: 2-3).
3. We pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to fill our land, for an increase in the knowledge of God and for our land to be set free to lead a way of life that is pleasing to God (Ephesians 1:17). -AS-

The calling of Berlin

The history of Berlin, now our capital and the seat of government in our country, goes back to the 13th century. German history was made in Berlin in so many ways. Many cultural and political debates as well as ideological disputes have their origin here in Berlin and this is still true today. The city has had to live through many times of upheaval. The division of Germany, with the construction of the Wall, was not experienced so directly anywhere else than in Berlin as a tangible and painful reality.

With the reunification of Germany, God has opened a new chapter and Berlin has become the "city of unity" and a symbol of God's grace-outpouring and miracle-working. The message that comes to us from Berlin is that what God has done here, He can do anywhere else in the world. Not only political but also spiritual leadership should be evident in this city, along with a servant spirit and wise understanding. Berlin needs our love as well as God's help and guidance. The destiny and future of Berlin is important to us all. Let us pray for God's redemptive plans and together bless and set this city free in its calling.

Prayer:

- **For the special protection of God in all the current winds of change and upheaval. (Psalm 27: 1)**
- **That God's salvation plans and purposes for Germany become visible in and for Berlin. (Isaiah 60:18)**
- **We speak out over Berlin: *You are a city of unity, of wise leadership ... – a miracle of God.*** -AS-

Refugee crisis in Greece

On September 8th, the overcrowded Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos was set on fire and burned down by residents. Ten days later fire broke out on the island of Samos. The majority of the approximately 12,000 migrants have since been moved to a makeshift tent camp on Lesbos. However, many refuse to move and want to get to the mainland and on to Europe. The Greek government is not allowing this to happen and is insisting on completing the asylum procedure in order not to encourage more refugees to come across the Mediterranean. As the misery in the camps was increasing, the local residents were largely unprotected and exposed to break-in and occupation of their houses, dumping of rubbish and looting. In the meantime, Greece has agreed to the decision of the German government to accept 1553 people - 408 families with children - from the islands who already have recognized refugee status. This helps the families, but does not solve the problem that is becoming more and more volatile on the border with Turkey. Some German states want to take in more people, while the German government wants to find a European solution and to provide help locally. A European migration policy with distribution quotas has so far failed, as has the refugee deal with Turkey. In February Erdogan allowed thousands to cross the border into Greece and has not taken back any illegal migrants from Greece since then.

Prayer:

- **For repentance for the refugee deal with Turkey, where we committed ourselves to the wrong helper and treated people as commodities that can be moved around at will. (Isaiah 31: 1-3)**
- **That the Lord will pave His way for the gospel message to flow between east and west through Greece and Turkey and for peace on the borders. (Isaiah 55: 6-9)**
- **For effective protection of the external borders and orderly ways and routes to be established for asylum seekers to reach Europe. (Psalm 133)** -KH-

Tense situation in Israel during corona-virus crisis

At the beginning of September, the Knesset MP Yoel Razvozov sent a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu, Health Minister Edelstein and the Corona Commissioner, Professor Gamzu, in which a total of 120 signatories called for a recount and re-assessment of the corona deaths in Israel. The signatories included lawmakers and medical and scientific professionals in Israel. In their letter they refer to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health for hospitals, according to which all those who have died and had been diagnosed as having a corona infection are treated as a case of death by the corona-virus - regardless of the main cause of death. The experts assume from this that the recorded number of corona deaths is about 30 percent above the true number. The current corona mortality rate since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, as determined by the Ministry of Health on the basis of these guidelines, is 0.74% and similar to the death rate from influenza. A re-assessment would set the corona rate well below the rate for influenza. Because of the heavy burden on the economy in Israel, the complete collapse of the tourism industry and the social consequences within the population, the letter urges the recipients to take their request seriously and to re-assess the situation. At the same time, the resolution to impose a new lockdown was in process. The discussion amongst ministers concerning the request was very controversial and no unified decision was reached. It was not possible to postpone the vote on the resolution for scheduling reasons. So, at the beginning of the holidays on September 19th, Israel went into the second lockdown for at least three-weeks. The social and economic consequences cannot be foreseen. The population is divided. Unemployment, poverty and the consequences of the emotional tension in the population are on the increase.

Prayer:

- **That light, truth and wisdom find their way into all discussions and evaluations in the Knesset. (Psalm 43)**
- **For hope and real help for people who are socially and psychologically in need. (Isaiah 58: 6-10)**
- **For the role of Germany as a supporter of Israel. (Proverbs 17,17)** -TF-

Let us this month praise God in a special way and overwhelm Him with our thanks!
Alexander Schlueter and Team